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Reorganization of the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar.

250-B Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to reorganize the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies of Malabar in view of the present policy of food decontrol?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" There is no proposal to reorganize the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar district in view of the present policy of food decontrol. However, in view of the fact that the procurement has been given up in that district under the revised food policy, the Government recently examined the question of evolving future arrangements with regard to distribution of foodgrains in the district and decided that all the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies except those in which defalcations have occurred, which have been superseded and whose management is unsatisfactory, shall continue to function both as wholesalers and retailers as at present under the existing credit system applicable to them. Societies in which there have been defalcations and which have become bankrupt were ordered to be transferred to the Co-operative department and liquidated."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, now that matters relating to producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar are looming large and that these institutions after decontrol are confronted with a situation for which they were not originally intended and inasmuch as any failure of these institutions will have repercussions on the co-operative movement itself, will the Government consider the appointment of a small committee to study how these societies could be effectively reorganized? " 9–10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Before we consider the question of appointing a small committee to go into this question of reorganizing these societies, I may inform the hon. Member that recently a conference was held on 2nd January 1953 and at this conference some suggestions were made and these suggestions are under consideration of the Government."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Have the Government received any request from the Civil Supplies department in Malabar that the Co-operative department should take over the supervision of these producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Not anything that I am aware of, Sir."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any request from private dealers, commercial or public bodies, to liquidate these societies? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Not to my knowledge, Sir."

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SRI KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE :—" Have the Government received any reports that these societies have to suffer losses due to the responsibility of running retail ration shops? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I do not think they are running on losses, Sir."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister made reference to a conference. When he thinks of reorganizing these co-operative societies, will he be pleased to invite opinions from the Members of the Legislature? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Certainly, Sir."

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—" Will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to tell us how many such Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies have been organized in Rayalaseema and what financial help has been given by the State? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know the names of the Producers *cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies which have been ordered to be liquidated? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I am afraid I cannot give the figure at the present moment."

Appointment of Honorary First-class Magistrates.

* 250-C Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN (on behalf of Sri V. Gopala Gounder) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether persons without legal qualifications are appointed as Honorary First-class Magistrates and why the Government consider that no legal qualifications are necessary for these posts?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Yes, in a few cases. Generally retired officials of the Judicial or Revenue Department, non-practising lawyers wherever available and are willing, are appointed. Other non-officials who by their general education, status and experience are considered fit for working efficiently as Special First-class Magistrates are also appointed."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANI :—" In view of the availabiltiy of legally qualified practitioners, will the Government consider abolishing this system of recruiting honorary magistrates? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It is a very good system and people with integrity and character can function as efficiently as possible."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Who was the appointing authority last year and who is the appointing authority this year, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Of course, it is the Government."